



# Festival of Choirs

2024-2025 SEASON



The Pittsburgh Concert Chorale (PCC) is the city and region's premiere large all-volunteer choir. Under Music Director Dr. Susan Medley's leadership, the choir strives to sing a variety of genres at the highest level of artistic excellence, supports the musical education of high school singers through its annual Festival of Choirs at Oakland's Carnegie Music Hall, and is involved in the community through appearances at venues such as the Fort Pitt Fourth of July ceremony. Singers include professional musicians, people who sang in their high school or university choirs and want to continue singing, church choir members, and those who may read music as instrumentalists but have never sung in a choir.

# PCC Mission, Vision, and Values

## ***Mission***

We entertain, educate and enrich our community, audiences, and singers through the lifelong cultivation of choral musical experiences.

We are the region's premier large all-volunteer choir. We sing a variety of styles at the highest level of artistic excellence, support the development of young singers through our annual Festival of Choirs, and are involved with our community in appearances throughout the city. We tour internationally to share our love of music with others and we invest in the choral life of the nation through commissioning new choral works.

## ***Vision***

We will inspire the community by being an outstanding leader in the choral arts.

## ***Core Values***

### *Artistry*

We believe that choral music speaks to our deepest emotions and gives greater meaning to our lives.

### *Engagement*

We believe in the transformational power of music to connect people across the many spaces of life in our community.

### *Organization*

As stewards of a civic and cultural treasure, we are committed to supporting an organizational culture that values integrity, ethical practices, and mutual respect for others in all that we do. We seek to manage our resources responsibly and to become a model for others in our practices.

# Festival of Choirs

▶ The Pittsburgh Concert Chorale's Festival of Choirs, established in the fall of 2012, has become a cornerstone of the Chorale's mission, bringing together diverse voices and fostering a love of music in the community. The vision for this extraordinary event began with Dr. Susan Medley, who became the Music Director of the Chorale in January 2011. In her first year, she recognized the potential of an educational outreach program that would not only engage local singers but also provide a platform for collaboration and artistic expression. With the enthusiastic support of the Board of Directors, the Festival of Choirs was born.

Since its inception, the Festival has been held in the iconic Carnegie Music Hall in Oakland, PA, a venue renowned for its stunning acoustics and historic charm. Each year, the Festival brings together the members of the Pittsburgh Concert Chorale, professional instrumentalists, and an ever-growing number of guest singers. Nearly 1,400 guest singers have participated in this event, making it an unparalleled opportunity for vocalists of all backgrounds and experience levels to perform alongside some of the best musicians in the region.

The Festival of Choirs serves not only as a concert series but as an educational initiative, offering a platform for singers to develop their craft, learn from experienced conductors, and experience the joy of communal music-making. Under Dr. Medley's leadership, the event has grown both in scope and significance, becoming a vital part of the Chorale's outreach efforts and a testament to the power of music to bring people together. Through this Festival, the Pittsburgh Concert Chorale continues to build lasting connections with the community, enriching lives through the universal language of song.



# Previous Festival Participants

Canon McMillan High School Choir  
North Allegheny Intermediate Honors Treble Women's Choir  
Quaker Valley High Schools  
Taylor-Alderdice and Carrick High Schools  
Burrell High School  
Fox Chapel Area High School Madrigal Singers  
McKeesport Area High School Choirs  
West Allegheny High School Chorus and West Allegheny Show Choir  
Penn Hills High School Choirs  
Riverview High School Choirs  
McKeesport High School A Cappella Choir and Concert Choir  
Mt. Lebanon High School Triple Trio  
Wilmington Women's Choir and Wilmington Chamber Singers.  
City Charter High School Choir  
Shaler Area High School Chamber Choir  
South Fayette High School Concert Choir and Select Choir  
Moon Area High School Honors Choir  
Pittsburgh CAPA Chamber Choir  
Woodland Hills High School Chamber Choir  
Chartiers Valley Select Chorus  
Penn Hills High School Choirs.  
Washington & Jefferson College Camerata Singers  
North Hills High School Symphonic Choir  
Central Assembly of God Church Choir  
Woodland Hills High School Chamber Choir  
City Charter High School Choir  
St. Nicholas Serbian Orthodox Church of Monroeville Chancel Choir

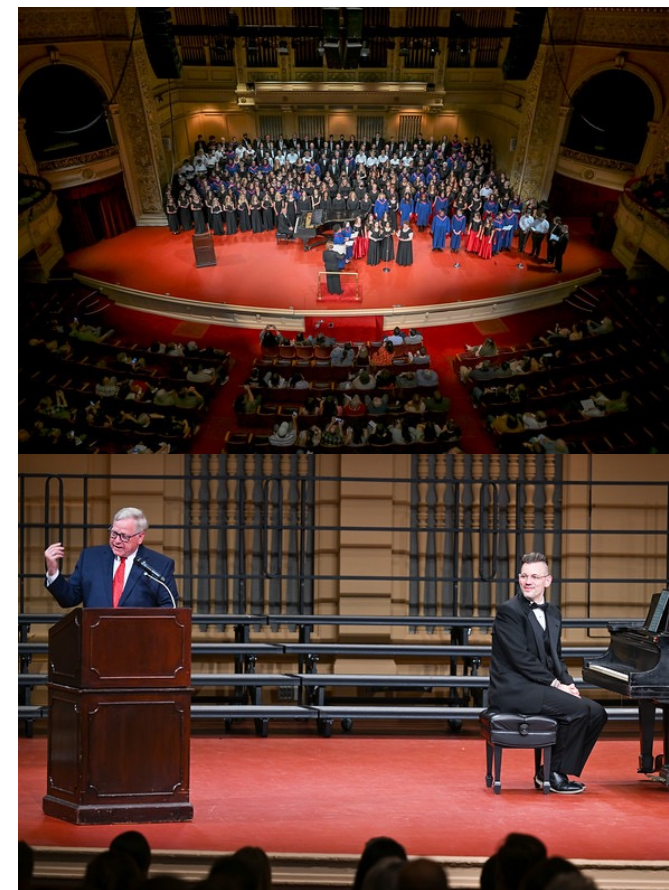
# 2024 Festival of Choirs Details

This year marked the third anniversary of the Carol and Robert Woody Choral Commission, a generous initiative made possible by the Woodys. Their vision and support established a fund that enabled the creation of a new musical work each year, serving as the grand finale of the Festival of Choirs.

The premiere of a newly commissioned piece is an exhilarating experience, and PCC is proud to offer this opportunity to all high school singers who participated in the Festival. Thanks to the Woodys, this tradition continues to inspire and elevate the choral community.

Our commissioned composer was Dan Forrest. Dr. Forrest's work had become well established in the choral repertoire in the U.S. and around the world. His choral compositions had been recorded by professional choirs, including Seraphic Fire and VOCES8, featured on the BBC Proms series, and showcased in numerous national U.S. radio and TV broadcasts. His works were also regularly performed in Carnegie Hall choral festivals. He had recently released an album of his choral music, and the piece he wrote for this Festival, *The Peace of Wild Things*, served as the album's title track.

The Festival is held at the beautiful and historic Carnegie Music Hall of Pittsburgh.



Photos  
courtesy of  
Paul  
Vladuchick

# Festival Cost Breakdown

## Festival of Choirs

- ▶ Carnegie Music Hall rental **\$6400**
- ▶ Piano tuning **\$200**
- ▶ TULIP insurance (required by Carnegie Music Hall) **\$100**
- ▶ Instrumentalists 2 @ \$300 each **\$600**
- ▶ Emcee **\$200**
- ▶ Plaques **\$500**
- ▶ T-shirts for students **\$1,000**
- ▶ Advertising & Marketing **\$2,000**
- ▶ PCC Staff **\$1,500**
- ▶ Commissioned Piece **\$6000**
- ▶ Travel/Expenses **\$2000**



# Testimonials

“I loved being about to sing with the adults. I felt it really helped our choir with projecting our voices and sounding more professional on stage.”

“As a director, this experience was priceless and so important for my students. They wear their T-Shirts with pride and speak of the festival and the time spent working with Dr. Medley at our home school often. Most students do not get the opportunity to participate in PMEA festivals because of the tough audition process. This was an opportunity for ALL students. I will be forever grateful for the invitation to participate.”

“I had a fantastic time singing in the 2022 PCC Festival of Choirs. I enjoyed meeting new people from other schools as well as hearing the adult choir sing. I loved the building we sang in because it was beautiful and had amazing acoustics. Also, I was thankful for the free t-shirt as well as transportation to and from the event.”

# Thank you!

We appreciate the opportunity to share more with you about our Festival of Choirs and the 40th Anniversary Gala! The Festival of Choirs is the heart of our mission, showcasing the incredible talent and dedication of the Pittsburgh Concert Chorale, while fostering an environment of education, inspiration, and community engagement. As we celebrate the history and legacy of the Chorale, we also look toward the future with excitement and anticipation for the impact this event will continue to have.

Please don't hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or require more information. Whether you're interested in participating, supporting, or simply learning more about these celebrations, we are here to assist. Thank you for your continued support of The Pittsburgh Concert Chorale.



9800 McKnight Rd., Suite 210-B, Pittsburgh, PA 15237  
[www.pccsing.org](http://www.pccsing.org)